

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 wherein said arc is generally downwardly facing.
5. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 wherein said drum has a core surface with a non-circular cross-section.
6. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of claim 7~~ An assembly for processing wood chips, comprising:

a drum disposed so as to rotate about a generally horizontal axis and
spinning at a rate of about 50 rpm or more, said drum including a plurality of
outwardly extending blades; wherein said blades comprise a leading face
with at least a first face section that extends in a first direction and at least a
second face section extending at a forward angle relative to said first
section; and

wherein output from said drum, when an input stream of wood chips is fed to said drum, covers an arc of at least 90° when viewed from a position along said horizontal axis spaced from said drum;
a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input stream of wood chips to said drum; wherein said feed chute comprises a baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side portion of said drum.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 further comprising ~~a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input stream of wood chips to said drum,~~ a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto, ~~wherein:~~ thereto; wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

~~said feed chute comprises a baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side portion of said drum; and said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.~~

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~11~~ 17 wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 44 17 wherein said arc is generally downwardly facing.

15. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 44 17 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 16~~ An assembly for processing wood chips, comprising:

a drum disposed so as to rotate about a generally horizontal axis and spinning at a rate of about 50 rpm or more, said drum including a plurality of outwardly extending blades, wherein said blades comprise a leading face with at least a first face section that extends in a first direction and at least a second face section extending at a forward angle relative to said first section;

wherein an output stream of wood chips from said drum covers an arc of more than 90° when viewed from a position along said horizontal axis spaced from said drum when an input stream of wood chips is fed to said drum; and

said output stream causing a pile of wood chips to be formed a packing density factor of at least 1.20;

a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input stream of wood chips to said drum; wherein said feed chute comprises a

baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side portion of said drum.

18. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 44 17 further comprising a container for receiving said output.

19. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 44 17 wherein said packing density factor is at least 1.25.

20. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 44 17 further comprising ~~a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input stream of wood chips to said drum,~~ a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto, ~~wherein:~~ thereto; wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

~~said feed chute comprises a baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side portion of said drum; and said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.~~

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 24 27 ~~said blades~~ wherein said first and second face sections are generally planar.

23. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein said first section extends outwardly away from a core of said drum.
24. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein said first direction is generally radial with respect to said axis.
25. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.
26. (Canceled)
27. (Previously presented) An assembly for processing wood chips, comprising:
a drum disposed so as to rotate about a generally horizontal axis and
spinning at a rate of about 50 rpm or more, said drum including a plurality of
outwardly extending blades; and
said blades comprising a leading face with at least a first face section that
extends in a first direction and at least a second face section extending at a
forward angle relative to said first section;
a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input
stream of wood chips to said drum; wherein said feed chute comprises a
baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said
baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said
input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side
portion of said drum.

28. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~24~~ 27 further comprising a container for receiving said output.

29. (Original) The assembly of claim 28 wherein said container is selected from the group consisting of a train car, a ship, a barge, a trailer, a storage bin, and a digestion chamber.

30. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein said forward angle is in the range of 25° to 45°.

31-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) An assembly for processing wood chips, comprising:

a drum disposed so as to rotate about a generally horizontal axis and

spinning at a rate of about 50 rpm or more, said drum including a plurality of outwardly extending blades;

wherein output from said drum, when an input stream of wood chips is fed to said drum, covers an arc of at least 90° when viewed from a position along said horizontal axis spaced from said drum; and

a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input

stream of wood chips to said drum, wherein said feed chute comprises a

baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said

baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said

input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side

portion of said drum.

41. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

42. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein said blades comprise a leading face with at least first and second face sections extending in different directions.

43. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein said arc is generally downwardly facing.

44. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein said drum has a core surface with a non-circular cross-section; said blades mounted to said core surface.

45. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto.

46. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 further comprising a container for receiving said output.

47. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto, wherein:
said blades comprise a leading face with at least first and second face sections extending in different directions; and
said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

48. (Previously presented) An assembly for processing wood chips, comprising:
- a drum disposed so as to rotate about a generally horizontal axis and spinning at a rate of about 50 rpm or more, said drum including a plurality of outwardly extending blades;
 - wherein an output stream of wood chips from said drum covers an arc of more than 90° when viewed from a position along said horizontal axis spaced from said drum when an input stream of wood chips is fed to said drum; and
 - a feed chute disposed upstream from said drum and supplying said input stream of wood chips to said drum, wherein said feed chute comprises a baseplate and a plurality of divider walls moveably mounted to said baseplate, wherein said divider walls control the relative flow ratios of said input stream to a first side portion, a center portion, and a second side portion of said drum;
 - said output stream causing a pile of wood chips to be formed with a packing density factor of at least 1.20.
49. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 wherein said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.
50. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 wherein said blades comprise a leading face with at least first and second face sections extending in different directions.

51. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 wherein said arc is generally downwardly facing.

52. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto.

53. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 further comprising a container for receiving said output.

54. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 wherein said packing density factor is at least 1.25.

55. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 48 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said drum and supplying rotational power thereto, wherein:

said blades comprise a leading face with at least first and second face sections extending in different directions;
said drum spins at 150 rpm or more.

56. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim [[1]] 8 wherein said first face section is disposed closer to said axis than said second face section.